

# HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the hepatitis b virus. Infection can be spread by penile, vaginal, anal, and oral sex. Other ways hepatitis b is spread include: injecting drugs, sharing personal items with an infected persons such as razor, toothbrush, with any other body fluids and mother to baby.

## Symptoms

Short Term (acute illness)

- Loss of appetite
- Tiredness
- Muscular pain
- Yellow skin and eyes (Jaundice)
- Diarrhea and vomiting

## How is it a Serious Disease?

- 1.) After the virus gets into your body it attacks your liver.
- 2.) Your liver's job is to help your body digest food. It also helps your body get rid of poisons.
- 3.) The Hepatitis B virus stops the liver from doing it's job. The virus can cause lifelong infection, scarring of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death.

**SE STD Clinic**

**DC General Health Campus, Bldg. #8**

**19th & Mass. Ave., SE**

**Washington, DC 20003**

**Clinic Hours: 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Monday -**

**Friday**

**202-698-4050**

## How is Hepatitis B treated?

There is no specific treatment for the short term illness. Some people remain infectious all their lives. However an effective three part vaccine is available.

## Who should be vaccinated?

- ♦ Anyone in who has recently been treated for an STD.
- ♦ Anyone who has had more than one sex partner in the last six months.
- ♦ Injecting drug users.
- ♦ Sexually active homosexual & bisexual men.
- ♦ Health care workers.

## How can I avoid getting Hepatitis B?

**Get vaccinated. Condoms will only partially reduce your exposure to body fluids and risk of getting the virus.**